



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Brown-Tracy

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Councilor Bond noted that State Representative Elissa Wright has submitted a bill regarding municipally acquired open space land requiring that it be used solely as passive open space. Councilor Bond expressed her frustration that the Town Council was not aware of the proposed legislation and that GOSA testified on behalf of the bill, while the Town Council had no input. The Town Manager noted that this issue was raised in the Weekly Status Report a number of weeks ago. Councilor Bond asked that Representative Wright be asked to come speak to the Council about why she has proposed this legislation. Councilor Sheets expressed support for this legislation.

Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent noted that Legislative Policy is on the agenda tonight and this issue can be discussed further at that time.

4. Approval of Minutes

2009-0053 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of February 10, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0034 Disposition of Eastern Point School Property

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to enter executive session at 6:16 p.m. to discuss the disposition of Eastern Point School property, and to invite the Town Manager, Bruce Kellogg of JCJ Architects, Doreen Marvin of LEARN, and Virginia Sachem of LEARN, to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:14 p.m.

regarding the disposition of Eastern Point School, the first resolution setting a public hearing and the second resolution referring it to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0054 Public Hearing on Sale of Buddington Road and North Road Parcels to City of Groton

Discussed

The Town Manager indicated the first available date for the public hearing would be March 17, 2009.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0019 FYE 2010 Budget

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger reminded the Council of comments received at the pre-budget public hearing. He also distributed a draft budget review calendar and noted important dates and deadlines. The consensus of the Council was to conclude the Saturday sessions by 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to schedule the budget public hearing for Monday, March 30, 2009.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0055 International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Membership

Recommended for a Resolution

Councilor Sheets distributed minutes of the February 10th Environment and Energy Committee meeting at which she made a recommendation on behalf of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community that the Town of Groton join ICLEI. Group II referred the issue to the Committee of the Whole. Councilor Sheets reviewed the history of ICLEI, goals of the organization, and benefits of membership. Councilor Sheets requested approval of a one-year membership, and offered to be the government liaison.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bond, to recommend a resolution approving a \$600 one-year membership in ICLEI.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0009 Legislative Policy (2009 Standing Referral)

Discussed

Assistant to the Town Manager Vincent reviewed the following issues: an opportunity this year to legislatively advance smart growth; reductions in state mandates; the need to address the current year deficit; and optional local taxes to generate revenues.

With respect to the bill proposed by Representative Wright, Councilor Kolnaski feels a letter should be sent to CCM and the other local legislators in support of CCM's position opposing the bill. Mr. Vincent stated he will invite legislators to come to a meeting in March prior to a regular Town Council meeting. Councilor O'Beirne suggested a breakfast meeting rather than an evening meeting.

The Town Manager feels the Town Council should be aware that Groton's name is associated with the legislation and if there are concerns, then time is of the essence. The presumption is that when a bill is introduced by a legislator who represents Groton, Groton must support the legislation. Councilor Monteiro expressed concern with the bill and would like to meet with all legislators as soon as possible. Councilor Streeter asked if the proposal could be tabled until the Council can review it and take a position.

Councilor Sheets noted this legislation does not single out Groton, but would apply to all towns.

It proposes a conservation easement that would be enforced by the Town.

Councilors Streeter and Bond noted the fact that the legislation is sponsored by Groton's representative and testimony directly references Groton, so there is a false impression that Groton supports this legislation.

Councilor Kolnaski reiterated her suggestion that a letter be sent to CCM and the legislators.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, to send a communication to CCM and local legislators expressing concern with the legislation.

The Town Manager explained that the communication will ask legislators not to act on this item until the Town Council has had a chance to review it, and will clarify for the record that this legislation was not requested by the Town of Groton.

The motion carried unanimously

6. **Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List**

The Council reviewed the referral list and recommended the following items for deletion.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2003-0177 | Renovations & Additions to Groton School Facilities - Phase I
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2005-0209 | Water Pollution Control Facility Expansion
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2006-0102 | Fort Hill Sewer Project Update
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2006-0279 | Developer Fees
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2007-0105 | Community Swimming Pool
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2007-0198 | Town-Wide Property Maintenance Code
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2007-0294 | Summaries of School Projects Information
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2007-0304 | Review of Financial Incentive Policy
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2007-0309 | Establishment of Mystic Water Task Force
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2008-0015 | Water Use Restriction Ordinance
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2008-0156 | Honoring the Service of Groton Residents in Afghanistan and Iraq
HONORING THE SERVICE OF GROTON RESIDENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ
Referred |
| 2008-0196 | Groton DARE Program
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2008-0214 | Citizens' Petition Concerning the Zoning Commission
Recommended for Deletion |
| 2008-0247 | Budget Guidelines for FYE 2010 |

- 2008-0260 Recommended for Deletion
Integrated Pavement Management Program
- 2008-0262 Recommended for Deletion
Charter Revision - Discussion
- 2009-0030 Recommended for Deletion
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.